

# 2007 Virginia Spring Gobbler Season Survey

by

GARY W. NORMAN

*Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
P.O. Box 996  
Verona, Virginia 24482*

*Abstract:* An annual survey of spring gobbler hunters in Virginia was conducted to monitor turkey population trends and hunter satisfactions. Cooperators ( $n = 272$ ) reported data on 9,852 hours of hunting during 3,314 hunts in 91 Virginia counties. During the 2007 season cooperators heard and killed fewer gobblers than in 2006. Gobbling peaked during the first week of the season. Gobbling patterns were similar between areas east of the Blue Ridge Mountains (EBR) and west (WBR), however gobbling rates were slightly higher in counties WBR. Cooperators hunting on private lands heard more gobblers than those hunting on public lands. Hunter success rates were higher at the beginning of the season and during late April. The number of hens flushed per hunt suggested nest incubation began during the week of April 16, 2007. Hunter satisfaction during the 2007 was favorable with 32% of cooperators rating their season as good and 19% rating the season as excellent, however, hunter satisfaction decreased between the 2006 and 2007 seasons. Many hunters (32%) reported some type of interference during the season. Lower gobbling rates and cooperator success between 2006 and 2007 seasons suggest a decrease in the turkey population. These results agree with the 18% decrease seen in the 2007 spring gobbler harvest data reported at check stations and by phone.

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Spring gobbler hunting in Virginia is a popular sport with over 63,000 hunters hunting nearly 371,000 days in 2006 (Jagnow et al. 2007). The number of spring gobbler hunters has increased nearly 47% since 1993. An annual survey has been conducted since 1987 to monitor the status of the wild turkey population and assess characteristics, attitudes, and preferences of spring gobbler hunters in Virginia. Results from these surveys help evaluate wild turkey season length and bag limits, which are the primary wildlife management tools used to effect desired population goals.

## METHODS

Prior to the spring gobbler season, a self-administered mail-back questionnaire distributed to Virginia residents who were members of the National Wild Turkey Federation and to previous survey respondents ( $n = 406$ ). The 2-part survey requested information from daily hunts and opinions and other information (Appendix B). Cooperators were asked to record hunting information through the season and return their survey at the end of the season. Follow-up mailings were

not attempted. Standard statistical methods were used to calculate means and standard errors (mean  $\pm$  SE) for most variables. Standard errors for variables expressed on a per hour and per hunt basis (e.g., gobbling/hr, hens seen/hunt) were calculated using ratio-estimators (Cochran 1977). Means and standard errors were calculated by post-stratified methods for the following variables: hunters seen, hunts with interference, and dogs observed.

Because daily variation in weather may effect gobbling, daily gobbling rates were calculated as 3-day moving averages. The moving average of gobblers heard per 100 hours of hunting (MG<sub>t</sub>) on day t was calculated using:

$$\text{Moving Gobbling (MG)}_t = (G_{t-1} + G_t + G_{t+1}) / 3$$

where, G<sub>t</sub> = ratio estimate of gobblers heard per 100 hours of hunting on day t. The moving average of gobblers killed per 100 hours of hunting (MK) was calculated with gobblers killed on day t using:

$$\text{Moving Kill (MK)}_t = (K_{t-1} + K_t + K_{t+1}) / 3$$

where, K<sub>t</sub> = ratio estimate of gobblers killed per 100 hours of hunting on day t.

The 2007 regular season began on Saturday, April 14. Weekly time periods were considered Monday through Saturday. In addition to opening day, the weekly time periods were: Week 1, April 16–21; Week 2, April 23–28; Week 3, April 30–May 5; Week 4, May 7–12; and Week 5, May 14–19. Region boundaries were based on climatological and physiographic characteristics.

During the survey history, cooperators noted that they frequently hunt with others and they suggested that we include data on the

hunting success of their partners. Therefore, beginning in 1998, cooperators were asked to report information on their hunting partners' activities, specifically, if their partners killed a gobbler on one of their hunts.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Hunter Statistics

*Effort.* – Questionnaires were received from 297 individuals with daily records for 272 individuals. Cooperators ( $n = 272$ ) reported data on 9,852 hours of hunting during 3,314 hunts in 91 counties. As in previous years, cooperators hunted an average of 12 days although several cooperators hunted every day of the season. Hunts averaged 3.4 hours per day (Table 1). Average length of hunts has changed little over the years. Hunts appeared to increase in length during the last 2 weeks of the season, when all-day hunting is permitted (Table 2). Cooperators scouted an average of 3.1 days prior to the season (Table 1). It appears cooperators have spent fewer days scouting in recent years.

*Afternoon Hunting.* – During the last 2 weeks of the season when cooperators could hunt all day, 25% of hunts that started in the morning finished in afternoon and less than 10% of hunts began in the afternoon. Gobbling rates of hunts that began after noon were lower (0.11 gobblers heard/hr) than those that began before noon (0.35 gobblers/heard hr).

*Lands Hunted.* – About 91% of Virginia is privately owned. Cooperators hunted primarily on privately owned land (80%) followed by federal (17%), and state (3%) owned land. The disproportionate use of public

land (9% available vs. 19% hunted) suggests that publicly owned lands offer important hunting opportunities for spring gobbler hunters in Virginia.

*Decoys.* - Decoys were used by 63% of cooperators in the 2007 survey (Table 1). Decoy use has not changed significantly in recent years (Table 1).

*Hunter Success.* - During the 2007 season, cooperators heard and killed fewer birds than in 2006 (Table 3). Cooperators averaged harvesting 0.99 birds in 2007, which is a slight decline from 2006 (1.07). Cooperators or their partners killed 7% of birds heard in 2007, which is comparable to the 6% rate in 2006. Approximately 31% of gobblers called-in were successfully harvested by cooperators or their partners (Table 4). Crippling loss was 3.5% in 2007. Crippling losses have ranged from 3.1 to 7.9 percent during the survey (Table 4). For spring gobbler hunters using shotguns, 30 yards appears to be an important distance for hunters to recognize. The mean distance reported by shotgun hunters who killed a bird was 30 yards, while the average distance for birds that were missed was 36 yards (Table 4). Rifle hunters averaged killing birds at 82 yards.

Most birds (55%) were taken by 8:00 A. M. (Table 5). During the last 2 weeks of the season when cooperators may hunt all day, only 3 percent of the harvest was taken between noon and sunset.

Daily harvest rates (MK/100hr) were highest during the first few days of the spring gobbler season but declined steadily into the second week of the season. Harvest rates then increased sharply in late April and slowly declined until the season closed (Fig. 1). This pattern generally follows the rate at which hens

were flushed off nests (Table 14) and may indicate that nest incubation was peaking in late April making gobblers were more vulnerable to calling. The peak in nest flushing rates also coincided with the peak of harvest rates in 2006.

Cooperators reported the age distribution of gobblers harvested was: 13%, 1-year-old; 29%, 2-year-old; 40% 3-year-old; and 18%, 4-years and older (Table 6). Over the course of the survey, the "jake" (1-year-old) kill has averaged 13% (range 7% - 22%) of the reported harvest. The 2007 "jake" kill was identical to the long-term average and similar to 2006 (Table 6).

Most gobblers killed by cooperators were alone (50%) or were with other gobblers (25%). Sixteen percent of harvested gobblers were with hens while 10% were with both gobblers and hens.

The average weight reported by cooperators was 18.6 pounds. The heaviest bird reported weighed 24.5 pounds. Weights of gobblers harvested

Average spur length was 0.94 inches. Spur lengths tended to be longer during the first 2 weeks of the season. Average spur length by week was: 0.95, 0.96, 0.92, 0.93, and 0.91 inches for weeks 1-5, respectively. This may reflect some increased vulnerability or availability of older gobblers at the beginning of the season.

Hunter satisfaction during the 2007 season was generally favorable but appeared lower than 2006. Only 19% of cooperators rated the season excellent compared to 29% in 2006. Poor ratings increased from 12% in 2006 to 21% in 2007 (Table 7).

The 2007 season was the fourth season for the special youth spring gobbler hunt before the regular season. Approximately 14% of cooperators accompanied young hunters on the youth day. The highest participation rate

during the youth hunt by cooperators was during the first season (2004; 23%), since then participation has ranged between 14 and 15%. Numerous cooperators continued to assist others during the season and guided either youth (14%) or adult hunters (33%).

*Other Species Seen.* – Cooperators reported seeing a total of 25 bears (0.8 bears per 100 hours) in 2007. In 2006, cooperators saw more bears ( $n = 62$ , 1.3 per 100 hours). The observation rate of bears in 2007 was similar to 2005 (0.7 bears per 100 hours).

Cooperators saw 78 coyotes (2.4 coyotes per 100 hours) in 2007. This represents a slight increase over 2006 (2.2 coyotes per 100 hours).

## Gobbling Statistics

*State, Regional.* – Across Virginia, hunters heard 0.50 gobblers per hour (Table 8) and 1.73 gobblers per hunt in 2007 (Table 9). Compared to 2006, the average number of gobblers heard per hour decreased 18% and the average number of gobblers heard per hunt decreased 16%. These estimates suggest a decrease in the spring gobbler population, which is supported by an 18% decrease in the statewide harvest reported at game check stations and by phone. Research has shown total harvest to be a better indicator of population levels than gobbling rates which can be affected by numerous variables. Based on either the harvest or gobbling index, the turkey population appears to have decreased from 2006 to 2007. Poor reproduction in 2005 and 2006 may have limited turkey population growth during recent years.

For past 10 years, the West Piedmont Region has had the highest gobbling rate per

hour in Virginia (Table 8). In 2007, the West Piedmont region gobbling rate was 0.57 birds heard per hour, the Northern Region was a surprising second with 0.53 birds heard per hour. Gobbling rates in the Northern Region have recently increased relative to other region. For example, the Northern region ranked fourth in 2005 with 0.47 birds heard per hour and fifth in 2004 with 0.41 birds heard per hour. In 2007, the Southwest and Tidewater Regions placed third and fourth, respectively while the lowest gobbling rates were reported in the Eastern Piedmont and Central Mountain Regions (Table 8).

*Chronological.* – Gobbling activity is thought to have 2 peak periods through the season. The first peak occurs in March as gobblers attempt to attract hens. Gobbling declines in late March and early April during peak mating. A second peak may occur in mid-late April as hens leave the gobblers to begin laying eggs and incubating nests.

Gobbling activity was highest during the first week of the season (Table 10). Gobbling rates remained fairly high through the first 3 weeks of the season but declined sharply in Weeks 4 and 5. The highest moving average daily gobbling rates were seen on April 19 and 20 (Fig.1). Last year the highest daily rates were seen on April 8 and 10. Gobbling patterns were generally similar between areas East and West of the Blue Ridge Mountains (Fig. 2) and by region (Table 10).

*Intensity.* – We grouped gobbling intensity into 3 categories (no gobbling, poor gobbling, or fair-good). Good hunting conditions, as characterized by a higher percentage of hunts with fair-good gobbling, occurred through the first three weeks of the season (Fig. 3). Hunts with no gobbling increased in Weeks 4 and 5.

The percentage of hunts with poor gobbling conditions appeared to peak in Week 3 (Fig. 3).

*Land Type.* – In 2007, individuals hunting on private lands ( $0.53 \pm 0.01$ ,  $n = 2,635$ ) heard more birds than those hunting on federal ( $0.43 \pm 0.02$ ,  $n = 545$ ) or state lands ( $0.26 \pm 0.03$ ,  $n = 102$ ). These results are identical to previous surveys where private land gobbling rates have been higher than public-owned lands.

## Hen Statistics

Cooperators averaged hearing 0.55, seeing 0.76, and calling in 0.20 hens per hunt during the 2007 season (Table 11). These rates were lower than 2006 and were similar to gobbler observations which suggested the turkey population declined in 2007.

Throughout the survey history, the average number of hens seen and called in per hunt typically declines by week of the season (Tables 12 and 13). In recent years, the number of hens seen has increased during week 5 of the season. This increase may be attributed to cooperators taking advantage of hunting in the afternoons which was initiated in 2005. However, only 10% of hunts began in the afternoon while 25% ended in the afternoon. In the last 3 years of the survey the number of hens seen increased at the end of the season (Table 13). The increase in hen observation rates at the end of the season during these years may indicate poor nest success rates if hens lost their nests and were more visible to hunters. Reproductive rates, based on fall feather samples, were below average during these 3 years. In contrast, the number of hens seen during the last week of the season in 2004 declined. Production data collected at game check stations indicated above-average

reproductive success in 2004. So these data (observations of hens at the end of the season) may serve as an index to reproductive success.

The number of hens flushed per 100 hours was highest during the first and third weeks of 2007 season (Table 14). Research on wild turkey hens in Virginia indicates that peak incubation normally takes place in late April (Norman et al. 2000). The increase in hen flushing rates in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the season generally coincides with our research findings. A total of 41 hens were flushed from nests by cooperators during 3,314 hunts in 2007. Similar to 2006, a hen was flushed on an average of 1.2 percent of hunts or every 81 hunts.

## Interference

*Hunters.* – Many (32%) cooperators experienced interference from other hunters in 2007 (Table 15). The rate of interference reported by hunters appears to be relatively stable over the past 10 years, ranging between 32 and 40% (Table 15). Interference rates during the past 10 years appear lower than rates reported prior to 1993 when >50% of cooperators reported interference during the spring gobbler season (Table 15).

Cooperators observed an average of 2.4 other hunters in 2007 (Table 15). The most frequently reported (mode) number was 0. The median number of hunters seen was 1. The highest number of hunters observed by a cooperator was 26 over the course of the season.

*Dogs.* – About 34% of cooperators reported seeing free ranging dogs. Little change has occurred in dog disturbance rates over the past several years. Free ranging dogs are a potential predator for wild turkeys and other ground-nesting birds. Several research projects in the

Southeast have identified dogs as a major predator of nesting hens and poults.

## Violations

About 1 out of 6 cooperators (15%) reported seeing a game law violation in 2007. This level of violations is slightly lower than last year (19%) and 2003 where 20% of cooperators reported violations. As in previous years, trespassing was the most often cited violation (Table 16). Illegal killing of hens, either intentionally or mistakenly identified as a gobbler, is perhaps of greatest concern because of the potential effects on population status and growth. We have found a 6% illegal mortality rate of female turkeys in Virginia during a study of radio marked between 1989 and 1994 (Norman et al. 2007).

## Remarks

Cooperators provided a variety of comments on their observations, preferences and opinions on the 2007 season. A summary of these remarks is included in Appendix A. Remarks were not included if the name and address were not included on the survey.

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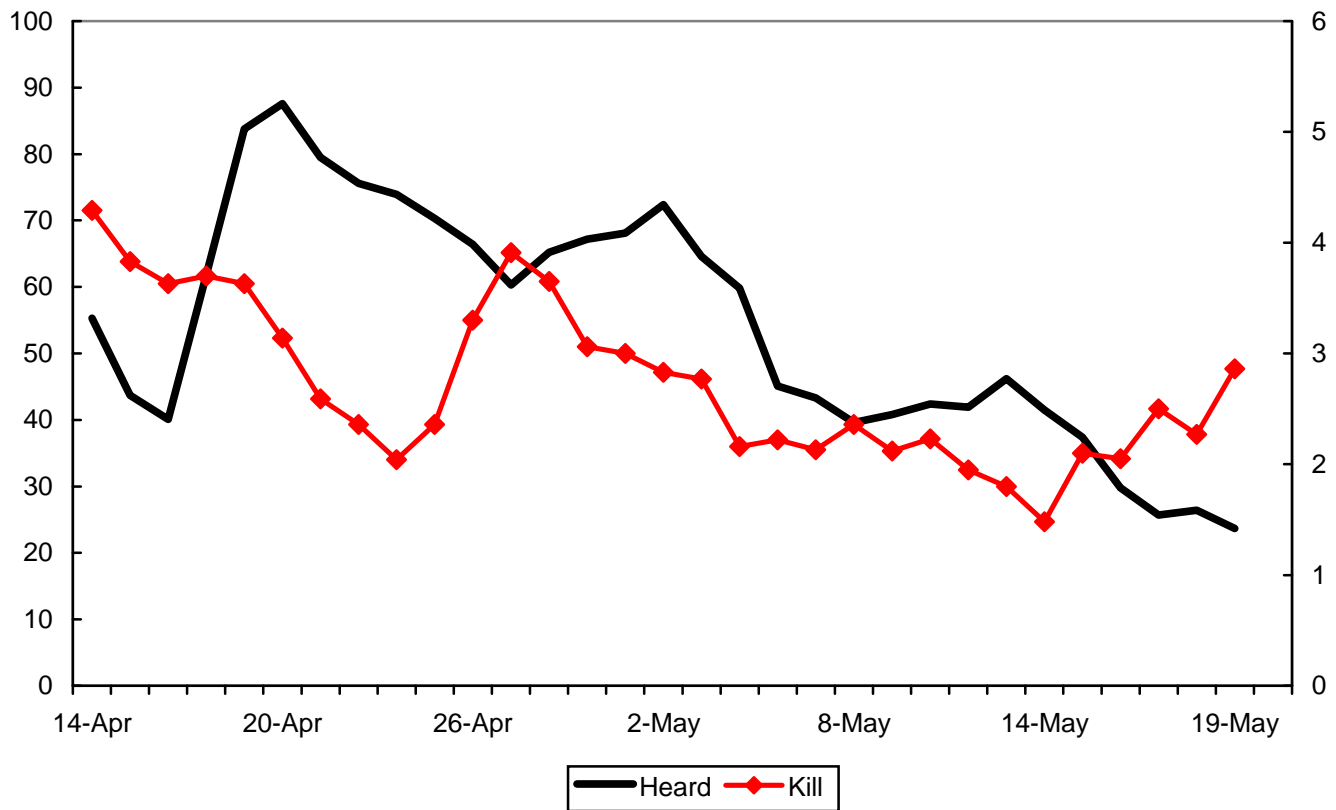


Figure 1. Statewide gobbling and harvest rates by day in Virginia, 2007.

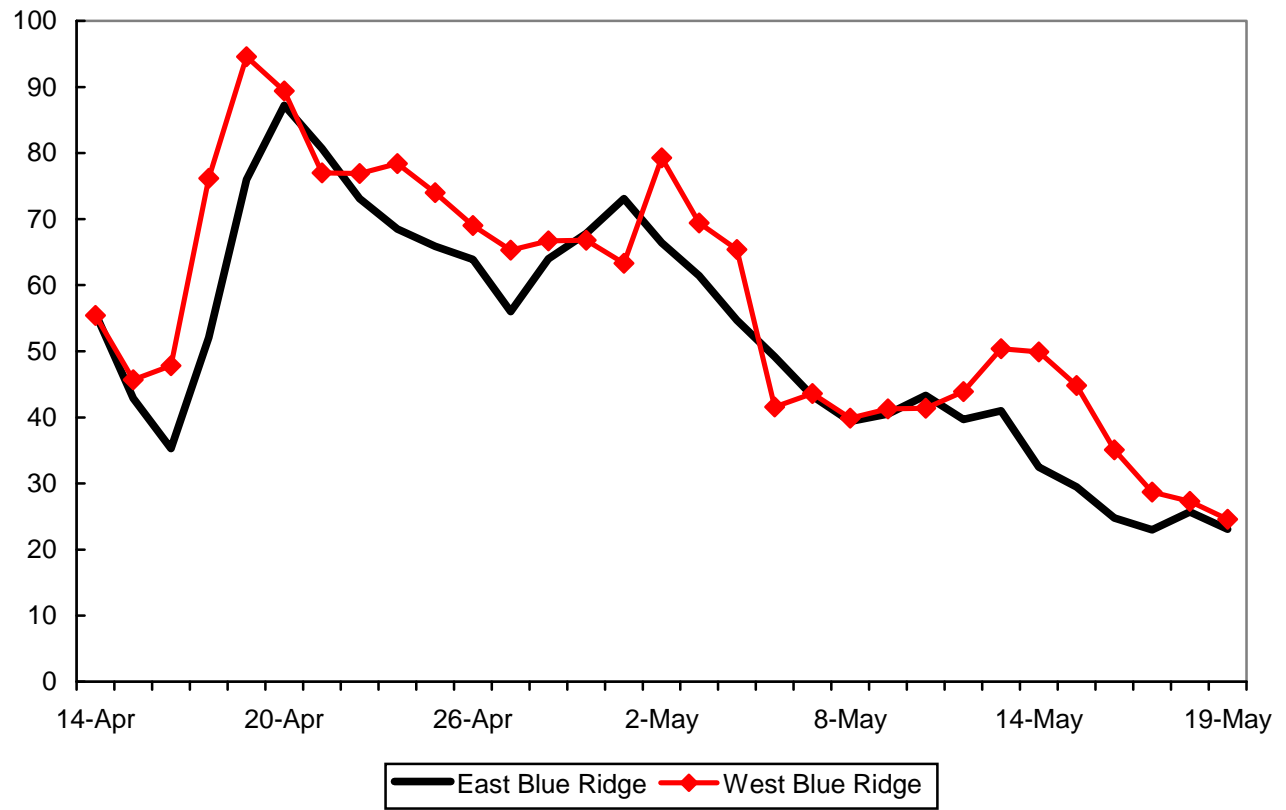


Figure 2. Daily gobbling rates by region in Virginia, 2007.



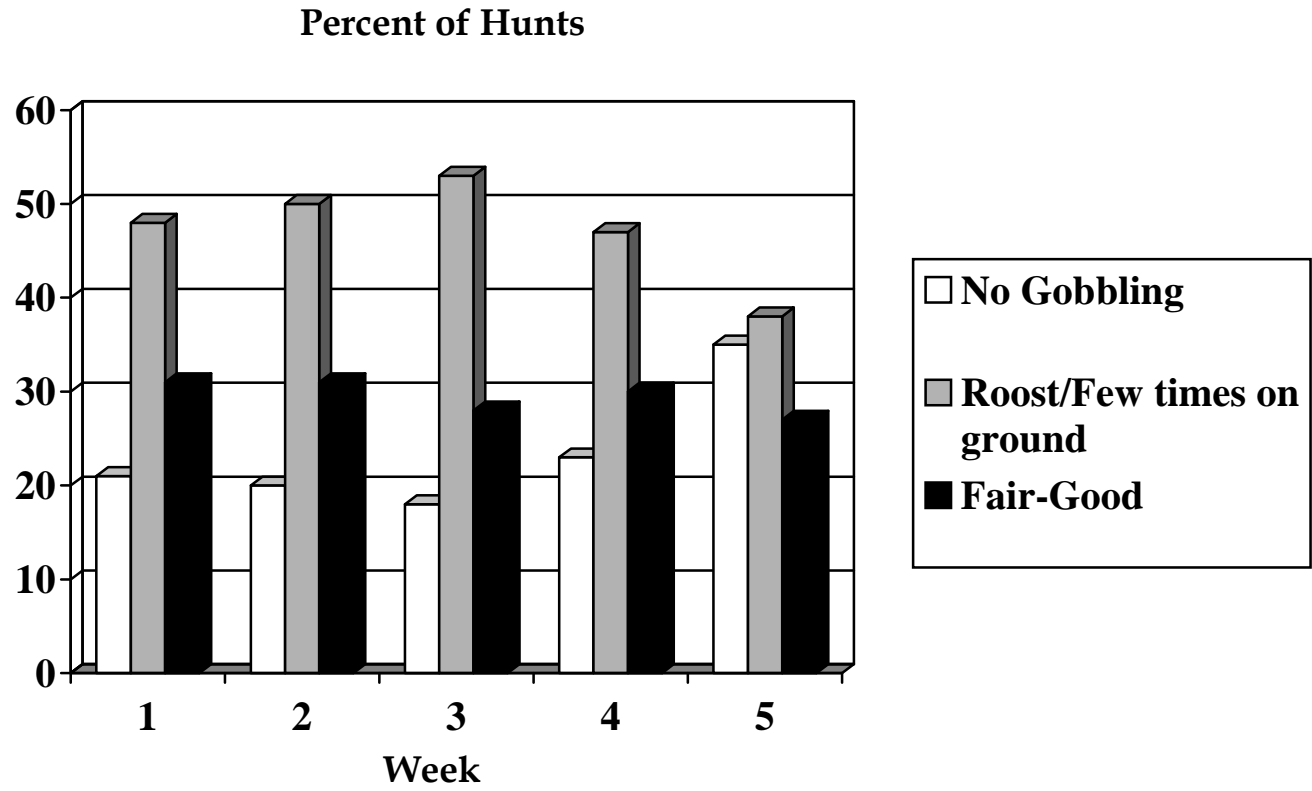


Figure 3. Gobbling intensity by week in Virginia, 2007.

Table 1. Hunting effort, scouting, and decoy use by cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Hunters<br>( <i>n</i> ) | Hunting Days<br>( <i>n</i> ) | Hunts/Season   | Hours/Day      | Scouting<br>Days/<br>Season | % Using<br>Decoys |
|------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1987 | 133                     | 1,364                        | 11.5           | 3.2            |                             | 15                |
| 1988 | 230                     | 2,447                        | 13.7           | 3.2            |                             | 7                 |
| 1989 | 241                     | 2,622                        | 13             | 3.1            |                             | 15                |
| 1990 | 303                     | 3,703                        | 12.9           | 3.3            |                             | 18                |
| 1991 | 408                     | 4,459                        | 10.9 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.2 $\pm$ 0.02 |                             | 15                |
| 1992 | 446                     | 5,031                        | 11.3 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.2 $\pm$ 0.03 |                             | 25                |
| 1993 | 369                     | 4,316                        | 11.7 $\pm$ 0.4 | 3.2 $\pm$ 0.02 |                             | 36                |
| 1994 | 341                     | 4,018                        | 12.0 $\pm$ 0.4 | 3.2 $\pm$ 0.03 | 4.7 $\pm$ 0.3               | 46                |
| 1995 | 401                     | 4,678                        | 11.7 $\pm$ 0.4 | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.03 | 6.7 $\pm$ 1.1               | 46                |
| 1996 | 461                     | 5,502                        | 11.7 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.2 $\pm$ 0.02 | 5.1 $\pm$ 0.3               | 56                |
| 1997 | 486                     | 5,610                        | 11.5 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.02 | 5.0 $\pm$ 0.2               | 60                |
| 1998 | 455                     | 5,085                        | 11.2 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.02 | 5.4 $\pm$ 0.3               | 61                |
| 1999 | 490                     | 5,704                        | 11.6 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.02 | 5.1 $\pm$ 0.3               | 63                |
| 2000 | 441                     | 5,655                        | 12.8 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.02 | 5.0 $\pm$ 0.3               | 65                |
| 2001 | 418                     | 5,368                        | 12.8 $\pm$ 0.4 | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.02 | 4.9 $\pm$ 0.3               | 69                |
| 2002 | 380                     | 4,726                        | 12.1 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.4 $\pm$ 0.02 | 5.0 $\pm$ 0.3               | 71                |
| 2003 | 355                     | 4,545                        | 12.8 $\pm$ 0.4 | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.02 | 4.6 $\pm$ 0.3               | 72                |
| 2004 | 352                     | 4,352                        | 12.5 $\pm$ 0.4 | 3.4 $\pm$ 0.02 | 4.3 $\pm$ 0.3               | 66                |
| 2005 | 345                     | 4,303                        | 12.9 $\pm$ 0.5 | 3.4 $\pm$ 0.03 | 4.3 $\pm$ 0.2               | 69                |
| 2006 | 407                     | 4,840                        | 11.5 $\pm$ 0.3 | 3.4 $\pm$ 0.03 | 3.9 $\pm$ 0.9               | 70                |
| 2007 | 272                     | 3,314                        | 12.0 $\pm$ 0.4 | 3.4 $\pm$ 0.03 | 3.1 $\pm$ 0.2               | 63                |

Table 2. Hunting effort by week for cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Day 1                  | Hours/Hunt $\pm$ SE<br><i>n</i> (Hunts) |                          |                          |                        |                        |
|------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|      |                        | Week                                    |                          |                          |                        |                        |
|      |                        | 1                                       | 2                        | 3                        | 4                      | 5                      |
| 1995 | 3.96 $\pm$ 0.08<br>344 | 3.37 $\pm$ 0.05<br>1,363                | 3.22 $\pm$ 0.05<br>1,018 | 3.15 $\pm$ 0.05<br>700   | 3.14 $\pm$ 0.06<br>691 | 3.04 $\pm$ 0.06<br>561 |
| 1996 | 3.93 $\pm$ 0.07<br>378 | 3.31 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,458                | 3.16 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,181 | 3.17 $\pm$ 0.05<br>978   | 3.09 $\pm$ 0.06<br>822 | 3.17 $\pm$ 0.06<br>670 |
| 1997 | 3.33 $\pm$ 0.07<br>400 | 3.38 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,467                | 3.35 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,128 | 3.10 $\pm$ 0.05<br>942   | 3.15 $\pm$ 0.05<br>848 | 3.27 $\pm$ 0.05<br>799 |
| 1998 | 3.89 $\pm$ 0.08<br>394 | 3.43 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,480                | 3.12 $\pm$ 0.05<br>1,101 | 3.10 $\pm$ 0.05<br>808   | 3.14 $\pm$ 0.06<br>716 | 2.98 $\pm$ 0.06<br>597 |
| 2000 | 3.74 $\pm$ 0.07<br>363 | 3.45 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,392                | 3.31 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,087 | 3.40 $\pm$ 0.05<br>999   | 3.24 $\pm$ 0.06<br>975 | 3.07 $\pm$ 0.06<br>829 |
| 2001 | 4.00 $\pm$ 0.08<br>363 | 3.48 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,348                | 3.34 $\pm$ 0.05<br>1,136 | 3.27 $\pm$ 0.05<br>1,004 | 3.22 $\pm$ 0.05<br>866 | 3.08 $\pm$ 0.06<br>639 |
| 2002 | 4.00 $\pm$ 0.08<br>324 | 3.47 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,385                | 3.46 $\pm$ 0.05<br>909   | 3.29 $\pm$ 0.05<br>811   | 3.28 $\pm$ 0.06<br>732 | 3.09 $\pm$ 0.06<br>547 |
| 2003 | 3.85 $\pm$ 0.08<br>293 | 3.38 $\pm$ 0.04<br>1,172                | 3.35 $\pm$ 0.06<br>1,004 | 3.29 $\pm$ 0.05<br>855   | 3.19 $\pm$ 0.06<br>600 | 3.18 $\pm$ 0.06<br>619 |
| 2004 | 3.98 $\pm$ 0.04<br>308 | 3.40 $\pm$ 0.02<br>1,013                | 3.38 $\pm$ 0.02<br>975   | 3.20 $\pm$ 0.02<br>748   | 3.47 $\pm$ 0.02<br>661 | 3.55 $\pm$ 0.02<br>603 |
| 2005 | 3.75 $\pm$ 0.09<br>278 | 3.24 $\pm$ 0.05<br>894                  | 3.16 $\pm$ 0.05<br>795   | 3.10 $\pm$ 0.07<br>591   | 3.57 $\pm$ 0.01<br>688 | 3.50 $\pm$ 0.01<br>617 |
| 2006 | 3.36 $\pm$ 0.04<br>291 | 3.35 $\pm$ 0.02<br>1320                 | 3.21 $\pm$ 0.02<br>973   | 3.20 $\pm$ 0.02<br>798   | 3.50 $\pm$ 0.02<br>779 | 3.87 $\pm$ 0.02<br>624 |
| 2007 | 3.47 $\pm$ 0.11<br>171 | 3.39 $\pm$ 0.06<br>650                  | 3.18 $\pm$ 0.06<br>619   | 3.24 $\pm$ 0.06<br>529   | 3.70 $\pm$ 0.10<br>488 | 3.84 $\pm$ 0.13<br>385 |

Table 3. Season gobbler statistics reported by cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Gobblers<br>Heard | Gobblers<br>Called | Gobblers<br>Seen | Gobblers<br>Killed | Gobblers<br>Crippled | Gobblers<br>Missed |
|------|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1991 | 13.4 $\pm$ 0.6    | 3.0 $\pm$ 0.2      | 4.6 $\pm$ 0.03   | 0.8 $\pm$ 0.05     | 0.07 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.30 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 1992 | 16.3 $\pm$ 0.7    | 3.6 $\pm$ 0.2      | 5.4 $\pm$ 0.3    | 0.8 $\pm$ 0.04     | 0.05 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.30 $\pm$ 0.04    |
| 1993 | 16.0 $\pm$ 0.8    | 3.3 $\pm$ 0.2      | 4.9 $\pm$ 0.3    | 0.7 $\pm$ 0.04     | 0.05 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.30 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 1994 | 14.6 $\pm$ 0.7    | 3.5 $\pm$ 0.2      | 5.8 $\pm$ 0.4    | 0.72 $\pm$ 0.04    | 0.04 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.29 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 1995 | 20.1 $\pm$ 0.8    | 4.5 $\pm$ 0.2      | 6.6 $\pm$ 0.3    | 0.93 $\pm$ 0.04    | 0.07 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.33 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 1996 | 20.1 $\pm$ 0.8    | 5.0 $\pm$ 0.2      | 7.7 $\pm$ 0.4    | 0.91 $\pm$ 0.05    | 0.05 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.33 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 1997 | 21.7 $\pm$ 0.8    | 4.7 $\pm$ 0.2      | 7.7 $\pm$ 0.4    | 0.87 $\pm$ 0.04    | 0.04 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.30 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 1998 | 19.4 $\pm$ 0.8    | 4.6 $\pm$ 0.2      | 7.4 $\pm$ 0.3    | 0.84 $\pm$ 0.04    | 0.05 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.38 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 1999 | 20.6 $\pm$ 0.8    | 2 $\pm$ 0.2        | .2 $\pm$ 0.3     | 0.81 $\pm$ 0.04    | 0.07 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.33 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 2000 | 22.0 $\pm$ 0.9    | 4.5 $\pm$ 0.2      | 7.9 $\pm$ 0.4    | 0.87 $\pm$ 0.04    | 0.06 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.35 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 2001 | 26.7 $\pm$ 1.1    | 5.7 $\pm$ 0.3      | 9.1 $\pm$ 0.5    | 1.04 $\pm$ 0.05    | 0.06 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.35 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 2002 | 27.8 $\pm$ 1.0    | 5.1 $\pm$ 0.3      | 8.8 $\pm$ 0.5    | 1.00 $\pm$ 0.05    | 0.06 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.45 $\pm$ 0.04    |
| 2003 | 25.1 $\pm$ 1.1    | 5.4 $\pm$ 0.4      | 8.7 $\pm$ 0.6    | 1.01 $\pm$ 0.05    | 0.06 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.40 $\pm$ 0.04    |
| 2004 | 21.1 $\pm$ 0.9    | 4.2 $\pm$ 0.3      | 8.2 $\pm$ 0.6    | 0.88 $\pm$ 0.05    | 0.04 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.20 $\pm$ 0.02    |
| 2005 | 21.3 $\pm$ 1.0    | 5.0 $\pm$ 0.3      | 9.0 $\pm$ 0.5    | 0.92 $\pm$ 0.05    | 0.03 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.31 $\pm$ 0.04    |
| 2006 | 24.7 $\pm$ 1.0    | 5.1 $\pm$ 0.3      | 9.1 $\pm$ 0.4    | 1.07 $\pm$ 0.05    | 0.05 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.29 $\pm$ 0.03    |
| 2007 | 21.0 $\pm$ 1.1    | 4.7 $\pm$ 0.3      | 8.1 $\pm$ 0.6    | 0.99 $\pm$ 0.06    | 0.04 $\pm$ 0.01      | 0.27 $\pm$ 0.04    |

Table 4. Shot distances and harvest success of cooperating hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Shotgun<br>Distance<br>Killed (Yd) <sup>a</sup> | Shotgun<br>Distance<br>Missed (Yd) <sup>a</sup> | Shotgun<br>Distance<br>Crippled (Yd) <sup>a</sup> | % Called in<br>Killed –<br>Cooperator <sup>b</sup> | % Called in<br>Killed-<br>Cooperator &<br>Partner <sup>b</sup> | % Crippling<br>Loss <sup>b</sup><br>All weapons |
|------|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| 1994 | 26.6 ± 0.6<br>(239)                             | 33.9 ± 1.2<br>(64)                              | 35.7 ± 2.5<br>(13)                                | 20   |  | 5.0   |
| 1995 | 26.5 ± 0.5<br>(362)                             | 32.9 ± 1.1<br>(103)                             | 33.5 ± 2.2<br>(26)                                | 20   |  | 6.7   |
| 1996 | 27.1 ± 0.5<br>(398)                             | 34.5 ± 0.9<br>(115)                             | 35.9 ± 2.0<br>(24)                                | 18   |  | 5.6   |
| 1997 | 26.1 ± 0.5<br>(405)                             | 34.4 ± 1.0<br>(107)                             | 37.6 ± 0.3<br>(16)                                | 18   |  | 3.9   |
| 1998 | 27.6 ± 0.4<br>(411)                             | 33.8 ± 1.2<br>(104)                             | 34.9 ± 1.9<br>(18)                                | 18   | 30   | 5.3   |
| 1999 | 26.9 ± 0.5<br>(418)                             | 36.1 ± 1.4<br>(92)                              | 29.2 ± 3.8<br>(16)                                | 19   | 30   | 7.9   |
| 2000 | 27.6 ± 0.7<br>(405)                             | 34.2 ± 1.2<br>(87)                              | 31.5 ± 2.5<br>(19)                                | 19   | 29   | 6.3   |
| 2001 | 28.4 ± 0.8<br>(468)                             | 33.7 ± 1.2<br>(72)                              | 35.1 ± 2.1<br>(18)                                | 18   | 28   | 5.8   |
| 2002 | 29.4 ± 0.8<br>(383)                             | 36.0 ± 1.2<br>(88)                              | 35.3 ± 2.5<br>(20)                                | 20   | 30   | 5.4   |
| 2003 | 28.9 ± 0.9<br>(380)                             | 35.3 ± 1.4<br>(83)                              | 32.1 ± 1.8<br>(14)                                | 19   | 30   | 5.5   |
| 2004 | 28.9 ± 0.9<br>(315)                             | 34.8 ± 1.6<br>(51)                              | 35.7 ± 4.2<br>(9)                                 | 21   | 30   | 4.0   |
| 2005 | 27.9 ± 0.6<br>(306)                             | 35.5 ± 1.2<br>(78)                              | 34.6 ± 2.8<br>(10)                                | 23   | 29   | 3.8   |
| 2006 | 27.7 ± 0.5<br>(403)                             | 33.8 ± 1.3<br>(88)                              | 28.5 ± 2.3<br>(16)                                | 21   | 31   | 3.1   |
| 2007 | 29.8 ± 0.7<br>(245)                             | 36.4 ± 1.4<br>(47)                              | 27.4 ± 2.0<br>(7)                                 | 21   | 31   | 3.5   |

<sup>a</sup> Distance variables are calculated from End-of-Season Questionnaire.<sup>b</sup> Percent called and crippling are calculated from daily hunt records.

<sup>b</sup> Percent crippling = (number crippled/number crippled + cooperator killed birds) x 100

Table 5. Percent of wild turkey harvest by hour for cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year  | Time Begin<br>Time End |                |                |                |                |                |                 | <i>n</i> |
|-------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------|
|       | 06:00<br>06:59         | 07:00<br>07:59 | 08:00<br>08:59 | 09:00<br>09:59 | 10:00<br>10:59 | 11:00<br>11:59 | 12:00<br>Sunset |          |
| 1998  | 22                     | 33             | 18             | 12             | 9              | 5              |                 | 559      |
| 1999  | 26                     | 31             | 18             | 12             | 8              | 5              |                 | 585      |
| 2000  | 22                     | 36             | 17             | 12             | 8              | 6              |                 | 541      |
| 2001  | 25                     | 30             | 19             | 11             | 8              | 7              |                 | 579      |
| 2002  | 25                     | 30             | 17             | 12             | 7              | 8              |                 | 520      |
| 2003  | 28                     | 31             | 18             | 11             | 8              | 4              |                 | 501      |
| 2004* | 26                     | 37             | 15             | 11             | 7              | 5              |                 | 397      |
| 2005  | 23                     | 29             | 18             | 12             | 9              | 5              | 4               | 423      |
| 2006  | 20                     | 33             | 20             | 10             | 8              | 6              | 2               | 574      |
| 2007  | 24                     | 31             | 20             | 11             | 7              | 4              | 3               | 323      |

\* Only included first 3-weeks of 2004 season.

Table 6. Age distribution (%) of gobblers harvested as reported by cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Age (Years) |    |    |    | <i>n</i> <sup>a</sup> |
|------|-------------|----|----|----|-----------------------|
|      | 1           | 2  | 3  | 4+ |                       |
| 1991 | 16          | 37 | 40 | 7  | 328                   |
| 1992 | 18          | 29 | 37 | 15 | 347                   |
| 1993 | 10          | 47 | 35 | 7  | 267                   |
| 1994 | 22          | 33 | 29 | 15 | 250                   |
| 1995 | 15          | 35 | 40 | 10 | 380                   |
| 1996 | 13          | 39 | 40 | 8  | 409                   |
| 1997 | 8           | 42 | 41 | 9  | 424                   |
| 1998 | 12          | 37 | 38 | 14 | 433                   |
| 1999 | 16          | 35 | 35 | 15 | 496                   |
| 2000 | 13          | 34 | 38 | 15 | 429                   |
| 2001 | 13          | 32 | 38 | 17 | 482                   |
| 2002 | 9           | 36 | 41 | 14 | 417                   |
| 2003 | 7           | 37 | 42 | 14 | 402                   |
| 2004 | 11          | 34 | 37 | 17 | 316                   |
| 2005 | 15          | 28 | 40 | 17 | 319                   |
| 2006 | 11          | 30 | 45 | 14 | 444                   |
| 2007 | 13          | 29 | 40 | 18 | 267                   |

<sup>a</sup> = reported gobbler harvest.



Table 7. Percent of cooperators rating season in Virginia by category.

| Year | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | No Opinion |
|------|-----------|------|------|------|------------|
| 1990 | 23        | 30   | 25   | 21   | 1          |
| 1991 | 23        | 33   | 26   | 17   | 1          |
| 1992 | 17        | 50   | 29   | 5    | 1          |
| 1993 | 22        | 30   | 29   | 19   | 1          |
| 1994 | 25        | 29   | 22   | 22   | 1          |
| 1995 | 40        | 34   | 17   | 9    | 1          |
| 1996 | 36        | 32   | 21   | 12   | 1          |
| 1997 | 37        | 30   | 19   | 13   | 1          |
| 1998 | 29        | 30   | 24   | 17   | 1          |
| 1999 | 29        | 29   | 24   | 16   | 2          |
| 2000 | 26        | 31   | 24   | 17   | 2          |
| 2001 | 36        | 32   | 19   | 12   | 1          |
| 2002 | 25        | 34   | 24   | 14   | 2          |
| 2003 | 23        | 30   | 27   | 19   | 1          |
| 2004 | 14        | 34   | 23   | 23   | 2          |
| 2005 | 15        | 28   | 40   | 17   | 1          |
| 2006 | 29        | 36   | 21   | 12   | 1          |
| 2007 | 19        | 32   | 27   | 21   | 1          |

Table 8. Region gobbling by hour for cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Gobblers Heard / Hour $\pm$ SE |                            |                            |                          |                            |                          |                            |
|------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
|      | Tidewater                      | Southwest                  | Western<br>Piedmont        | Eastern<br>Piedmont      | Central<br>Mountain        | Northern                 | State                      |
| 1996 | $0.51 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,145)     | $0.57 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,358) | $0.55 \pm 0.02$<br>(906)   | $0.50 \pm 0.02$<br>(802) | $0.48 \pm 0.02$<br>(998)   | $0.49 \pm 0.02$<br>(571) | $0.52 \pm 0.01$<br>(5,502) |
| 1997 | $0.63 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,358)     | $0.55 \pm 0.02$<br>(888)   | $0.65 \pm 0.02$<br>(892)   | $0.53 \pm 0.02$<br>(831) | $0.60 \pm 0.02$<br>(881)   | $0.45 \pm 0.02$<br>(704) | $0.57 \pm 0.01$<br>(5,610) |
| 1998 | $0.56 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,261)     | $0.51 \pm 0.02$<br>(900)   | $0.71 \pm 0.03$<br>(807)   | $0.56 \pm 0.02$<br>(698) | $0.44 \pm 0.02$<br>(856)   | $0.41 \pm 0.02$<br>(572) | $0.53 \pm 0.01$<br>(5,096) |
| 1999 | $0.56 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,392)     | $0.55 \pm 0.02$<br>(970)   | $0.62 \pm 0.02$<br>(867)   | $0.52 \pm 0.02$<br>(762) | $0.49 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,040) | $0.46 \pm 0.02$<br>(647) | $0.54 \pm 0.01$<br>(5,704) |
| 2000 | $0.53 \pm 0.01$<br>(1,322)     | $0.55 \pm 0.02$<br>(886)   | $0.69 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,035) | $0.46 \pm 0.02$<br>(811) | $0.43 \pm 0.01$<br>(961)   | $0.36 \pm 0.02$<br>(638) | $0.51 \pm 0.01$<br>(5,655) |
| 2001 | $0.55 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,060)     | $0.65 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,012) | $0.76 \pm 0.02$<br>(986)   | $0.59 \pm 0.02$<br>(670) | $0.62 \pm 0.02$<br>(958)   | $0.50 \pm 0.02$<br>(654) | $0.62 \pm 0.01$<br>(5,368) |
| 2002 | $0.55 \pm 0.02$<br>(898)       | $0.60 \pm 0.02$<br>(879)   | $0.70 \pm 0.02$<br>(776)   | $0.60 \pm 0.03$<br>(578) | $0.52 \pm 0.02$<br>(883)   | $0.42 \pm 0.02$<br>(693) | $0.56 \pm 0.01$<br>(4,726) |
| 2003 | $0.59 \pm 0.02$<br>(943)       | $0.63 \pm 0.02$<br>(825)   | $0.71 \pm 0.02$<br>(831)   | $0.69 \pm 0.03$<br>(572) | $0.46 \pm 0.02$<br>(711)   | $0.45 \pm 0.02$<br>(649) | $0.59 \pm 0.01$<br>(4,545) |
| 2004 | $0.50 \pm 0.02$<br>(803)       | $0.54 \pm 0.02$<br>(885)   | $0.58 \pm 0.02$<br>(700)   | $0.57 \pm 0.03$<br>(540) | $0.39 \pm 0.02$<br>(744)   | $0.41 \pm 0.02$<br>(666) | $0.49 \pm 0.01$<br>(4,352) |
| 2005 | $0.51 \pm 0.02$<br>(798)       | $0.57 \pm 0.02$<br>(907)   | $0.57 \pm 0.02$<br>(804)   | $0.46 \pm 0.02$<br>(515) | $0.42 \pm 0.02$<br>(706)   | $0.47 \pm 0.02$<br>(570) | $0.51 \pm 0.01$<br>(4,303) |
| 2006 | $0.62 \pm 0.02$<br>(842)       | $0.60 \pm 0.02$<br>(1,020) | $0.68 \pm 0.02$<br>(920)   | $0.57 \pm 0.03$<br>(455) | $0.54 \pm 0.02$<br>(942)   | $0.67 \pm 0.03$<br>(648) | $0.61 \pm 0.01$<br>(4,840) |
| 2007 | $0.49 \pm 0.02$<br>(573)       | $0.50 \pm 0.02$<br>(746)   | $0.57 \pm 0.02$<br>(517)   | $0.45 \pm 0.03$<br>(400) | $0.47 \pm 0.02$<br>(572)   | $0.53 \pm 0.04$<br>(483) | $0.50 \pm 0.01$<br>(3,314) |

Table 9. Region gobbling by hunt for cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Gobblers Heard/Hunt $\pm$ SE<br>(n) |                            |                            |                            |                            |                          |                            |
|------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
|      | Tidewater                           | Southwest                  | Western<br>Piedmont        | Eastern<br>Piedmont        | Central<br>Mountain        | Northern                 | State                      |
| 1994 | 1.28 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(897)            | 1.09 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(643)   | 1.19 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(590)   | 1.28 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(758)   | 1.26 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(741)   | 1.39 $\pm$ 0.10<br>(333) | 1.24 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(4,018) |
| 1995 | 1.99 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(947)            | 1.74 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(834)   | 1.58 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(767)   | 1.52 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(847)   | 1.82 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(895)   | 1.52 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(369) | 1.72 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(4,678) |
| 1996 | 1.67 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,145)          | 1.91 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(1,037) | 1.69 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(1,527) | 1.45 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(1,165) | 1.71 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(998)   | 1.61 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(571) | 1.68 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,502) |
| 1997 | 2.10 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(1,358)          | 1.81 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(888)   | 2.0 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(892)    | 1.48 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(831)   | 2.16 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(881)   | 1.58 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(704) | 1.88 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,584) |
| 1998 | 1.77 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,261)          | 1.82 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(900)   | 2.12 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(807)   | 1.64 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(698)   | 1.61 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(856)   | 1.44 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(572) | 1.70 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(5,096) |
| 1999 | 1.78 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,392)          | 1.96 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(970)   | 1.91 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(867)   | 1.57 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(762)   | 1.78 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,040) | 1.53 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(647) | 1.77 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,704) |
| 2000 | 1.67 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,322)          | 1.92 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(886)   | 2.28 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(1,035) | 1.43 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(811)   | 1.58 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(961)   | 1.19 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(638) | 1.72 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,645) |
| 2001 | 1.75 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,055)          | 2.31 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(1,012) | 2.44 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(986)   | 1.84 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(670)   | 2.32 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(958)   | 1.64 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(654) | 2.08 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(5,368) |
| 2002 | 1.89 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(896)            | 2.17 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(879)   | 2.23 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(776)   | 1.71 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(578)   | 2.00 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(883)   | 1.32 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(693) | 1.91 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(4,708) |
| 2003 | 1.94 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(943)            | 2.14 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(825)   | 2.24 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(831)   | 2.02 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(572)   | 1.71 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(711)   | 1.50 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(649) | 1.96 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(4,545) |
| 2004 | 1.79 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(802)            | 1.94 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(885)   | 1.86 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(700)   | 1.79 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(540)   | 1.50 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(744)   | 1.34 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(666) | 1.70 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(4,352) |
| 2005 | 1.69 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(798)            | 2.09 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(907)   | 1.82 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(804)   | 1.39 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(515)   | 1.52 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(706)   | 1.48 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(570) | 1.70 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(4,303) |
| 2006 | 2.06 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(842)            | 2.28 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(1,020) | 2.18 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(920)   | 1.76 $\pm$ 0.09<br>(455)   | 1.94 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(942)   | 2.05 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(648) | 2.07 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(4,840) |
| 2007 | 1.79 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(573)            | 1.76 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(746)   | 1.83 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(517)   | 1.38 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(400)   | 1.85 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(572)   | 1.65 $\pm$ 0.12<br>(483) | 1.73 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(3,314) |



Table 10. Region gobbling by week for cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Date           | Gobblers Heard/Hour $\pm$ SE |                          |                            |                         |                          |                          |                          |
|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                | Tidewater                    | Southwest                | Western<br>(n)<br>Piedmont | Eastern<br>Piedmont     | Central<br>Mountain      | Northern                 | State                    |
| Opening<br>Day | $0.80 \pm 0.10$<br>(36)      | $0.74 \pm 0.08$<br>(37)  | $0.59 \pm 0.07$<br>(36)    | $0.71 \pm 0.11$<br>(25) | $0.57 \pm 0.09$<br>(35)  | $0.84 \pm 0.13$<br>(36)  | $0.71 \pm 0.04$<br>(208) |
| Week 1         | $0.62 \pm 0.05$<br>(133)     | $0.53 \pm 0.03$<br>(172) | $0.68 \pm 0.04$<br>(133)   | $0.56 \pm 0.05$<br>(96) | $0.58 \pm 0.04$<br>(142) | $0.55 \pm 0.06$<br>(106) | $0.59 \pm 0.02$<br>(793) |
| Week 2         | $0.57 \pm 0.05$<br>(123)     | $0.60 \pm 0.04$<br>(148) | $0.56 \pm 0.04$<br>(133)   | $0.53 \pm 0.06$<br>(88) | $0.62 \pm 0.05$<br>(117) | $0.48 \pm 0.04$<br>(107) | $0.57 \pm 0.02$<br>(722) |
| Week 3         | $0.59 \pm 0.05$<br>(105)     | $0.49 \pm 0.04$<br>(138) | $0.60 \pm 0.05$<br>(85)    | $0.56 \pm 0.08$<br>(77) | $0.45 \pm 0.04$<br>(107) | $0.67 \pm 0.17$<br>(87)  | $0.55 \pm 0.03$<br>(596) |
| Week 4         | $0.32 \pm 0.03$<br>(91)      | $0.37 \pm 0.04$<br>(131) | $0.51 \pm 0.05$<br>(76)    | $0.26 \pm 0.05$<br>(74) | $0.35 \pm 0.03$<br>(96)  | $0.44 \pm 0.06$<br>(76)  | $0.37 \pm 0.02$<br>(535) |
| Week 5         | $0.22 \pm 0.03$<br>(82)      | $0.38 \pm 0.04$<br>(114) | $0.35 \pm 0.06$<br>(43)    | $0.19 \pm 0.05$<br>(53) | $0.26 \pm 0.04$<br>(71)  | $0.29 \pm 0.06$<br>(64)  | $0.28 \pm 0.02$<br>(427) |

Table 11. Statewide hen observations by hunt for cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Average/Hunt    |                 |                   |
|------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|      | Hens<br>Heard   | Hens<br>Seen    | Hens<br>Called In |
| 1993 | 0.39 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.44 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 1994 | 0.46 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.54 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 1995 | 0.56 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.55 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.16 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 1996 | 0.66 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.78 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 1997 | 0.62 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.74 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 1998 | 0.57 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.71 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 1999 | 0.58 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.70 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 2000 | 0.57 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.76 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 2001 | 0.71 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.73 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 2002 | 0.72 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.89 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 2003 | 0.56 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.74 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 2004 | 0.61 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.82 $\pm$ 0.03 | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 2005 | 0.69 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.95 $\pm$ 0.03 | 0.24 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 2006 | 0.70 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.86 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.01   |
| 2007 | 0.55 $\pm$ 0.02 | 0.76 $\pm$ 0.03 | 0.20 $\pm$ 0.01   |

Table 12. Wild turkey hens seen per hunt by cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Hens Seen/Hunt           |                            |                            |                            |                          |                          |                            |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
|      | Day 1                    | Week 1                     | Week 2                     | Week 3                     | Week 4                   | Week 5                   | Season                     |
| 1995 | 1.0 $\pm$ 0.10<br>(344)  | 0.65 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,363) | 0.50 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,018) | 0.44 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(700)   | 0.44 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(692) | 0.39 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(561) | 0.55 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(4,678) |
| 1996 | 1.26 $\pm$ 0.13<br>(378) | 1.02 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(1,462) | 0.80 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,182) | 0.62 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(982)   | 0.56 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(824) | 0.48 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(674) | 0.78 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,502) |
| 1997 | 1.19 $\pm$ 0.12<br>(401) | 0.90 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,476) | 0.75 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,131) | 0.61 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(948)   | 0.59 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(849) | 0.54 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(805) | 0.74 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,610) |
| 1998 | 1.12 $\pm$ 0.10<br>(394) | 0.89 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,480) | 0.69 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,101) | 0.56 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(808)   | 0.45 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(716) | 0.57 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(597) | 0.71 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,096) |
| 1999 | 1.12 $\pm$ 0.12<br>(413) | 0.87 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,640) | 0.68 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,150) | 0.52 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(996)   | 0.53 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(804) | 0.48 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(701) | 0.70 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,570) |
| 2000 | 1.21 $\pm$ 0.13<br>(364) | 0.96 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,393) | 0.79 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,092) | 0.69 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,001) | 0.56 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(976) | 0.41 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(829) | 0.76 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,655) |
| 2001 | 1.14 $\pm$ 0.09<br>(363) | 0.83 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,355) | 0.75 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,138) | 0.65 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,007) | 0.60 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(866) | 0.57 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(639) | 0.73 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,368) |
| 2002 | 1.51 $\pm$ 0.15<br>(324) | 1.02 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,388) | 0.92 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(915)   | 0.69 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(816)   | 0.71 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(734) | 0.67 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(549) | 0.89 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(4,726) |
| 2003 | 1.00 $\pm$ 0.12<br>(293) | 1.01 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,172) | 0.72 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(1,004) | 0.60 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(855)   | 0.54 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(600) | 0.55 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(621) | 0.75 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(4,545) |
| 2004 | 1.42 $\pm$ 0.20<br>(308) | 1.06 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(1,013) | 0.74 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(975)   | 0.74 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(748)   | 0.57 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(661) | 0.55 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(603) | 0.83 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(4,352) |
| 2005 | 1.65 $\pm$ 0.20<br>(278) | 1.20 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(1,032) | 0.96 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(900)   | 0.85 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(667)   | 0.63 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(740) | 1.38 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(662) | 0.95 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(4,303) |
| 2006 | 1.49 $\pm$ 0.14<br>(291) | 0.90 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(1,320) | 0.85 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(973)   | 0.71 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(798)   | 0.65 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(779) | 0.80 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(624) | 0.86 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(4,840) |
| 2007 | 1.28 $\pm$ 0.16<br>(208) | 0.89 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(793)   | 0.68 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(722)   | 0.64 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(596)   | 0.63 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(535) | 0.74 $\pm$ 0.08<br>(427) | 0.76 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(3,314) |

Table 13. Wild turkey hens called per hunt by cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Hens Called In/Hunt      |                            |                            |                            |                          |                          |                            |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
|      | Day 1                    | Week 1                     | Week 2                     | Week 3                     | Week 4                   | Week 5                   | Season                     |
| 1993 | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(310) | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,127) | 0.10 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(936)   | 0.11 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(793)   | 0.08 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(651) | 0.10 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(499) | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(4,316) |
| 1994 | 0.25 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(266) | 0.21 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,115) | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(879)   | 0.10 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(591)   | 0.11 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(625) | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(542) | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(4,018) |
| 1995 | 0.27 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(344) | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,363) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,018) | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(700)   | 0.11 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(692) | 0.14 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(561) | 0.16 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(4,678) |
| 1996 | 0.38 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(378) | 0.28 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,463) | 0.23 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,182) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(982)   | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(824) | 0.11 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(674) | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(5,502) |
| 1997 | 0.27 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(401) | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,476) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,131) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(948)   | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(849) | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(849) | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(5,610) |
| 1998 | 0.28 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(394) | 0.21 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,480) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,101) | 0.13 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(808)   | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(716) | 0.13 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(597) | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(5,096) |
| 1999 | 0.35 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(413) | 0.20 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,640) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,150) | 0.16 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(996)   | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(804) | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(701) | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(5,704) |
| 2000 | 0.31 $\pm$ 0.05<br>(364) | 0.26 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(1,393) | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,092) | 0.16 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,001) | 0.13 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(976) | 0.13 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(829) | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(5,655) |
| 2001 | 0.39 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(363) | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,355) | 0.20 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,138) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,007) | 0.20 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(866) | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(639) | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(5,368) |
| 2002 | 0.39 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(324) | 0.26 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,388) | 0.23 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(915)   | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(816)   | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(734) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(549) | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(4,726) |
| 2003 | 0.25 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(293) | 0.25 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,172) | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,004) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(855)   | 0.14 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(600) | 0.15 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(621) | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(4,545) |
| 2004 | 0.44 $\pm$ 0.09<br>(308) | 0.26 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(1,013) | 0.20 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(975)   | 0.24 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(748)   | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(661) | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(603) | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(4,352) |
| 2005 | 0.43 $\pm$ 0.09<br>(278) | 0.31 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(1,032) | 0.23 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(900)   | 0.20 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(667)   | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(740) | 0.16 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(662) | 0.24 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(4,303) |
| 2006 | 0.41 $\pm$ 0.07<br>(291) | 0.23 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(1,320) | 0.21 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(973)   | 0.17 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(798)   | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(779) | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(624) | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(4,840) |
| 2007 | 0.33 $\pm$ 0.06<br>(208) | 0.21 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(793)   | 0.19 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(722)   | 0.12 $\pm$ 0.02<br>(596)   | 0.18 $\pm$ 0.03<br>(535) | 0.22 $\pm$ 0.04<br>(427) | 0.20 $\pm$ 0.01<br>(3,314) |





Table 14. Flushing rates of nesting wild turkey hens by cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Hens flushed/100 hrs hunting<br>(number flushed) |              |              |              |              |              | Season       |
|------|--|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|      | Day 1  | Week 1       | Week 2       | Week 3       | Week 4       | Week 5       |              |
| 1999 | 0.56<br>(9)                                      | 0.48<br>(27) | 0.38<br>(14) | 0.39<br>(12) | 0.49<br>(12) | 0.64<br>(14) | 0.47<br>(88) |
| 2000 | 0.44<br>(6)                                      | 0.25<br>(12) | 0.19<br>(7)  | 0.71<br>(24) | 0.54<br>(17) | 1.06<br>(27) | 0.42<br>(81) |
| 2001 | 0.27<br>(4)                                      | 0.62<br>(29) | 0.39<br>(15) | 0.58<br>(19) | 0.79<br>(22) | 0.46<br>(9)  | 0.55<br>(98) |
| 2002 | 0.39<br>(5)                                      | 0.25<br>(12) | 0.70<br>(22) | 0.67<br>(18) | 0.58<br>(14) | 0.41<br>(7)  | 0.49<br>(78) |
| 2003 | 0<br>(0)   | 0.35<br>(14) | 0.50<br>(17) | 0.64<br>(18) | 0.63<br>(12) | 0.66<br>(13) | 0.49<br>(74) |
| 2004 | 0.08<br>(1)                                      | 0.18<br>(6)  | 0.15<br>(5)  | 0.46<br>(11) | 0.39<br>(9)  | 0.28<br>(6)  | 0.26<br>(74) |
| 2005 | 0.93<br>(8)                                      | 0.28<br>(8)  | 0.20<br>(5)  | 0.98<br>(18) | 0.94<br>(23) | 0.74<br>(16) | 0.61<br>(78) |
| 2006 | 0.65<br>(5)                                      | 0.21<br>(8)  | 0.60<br>(16) | 0.50<br>(11) | 0.39<br>(10) | 0.46<br>(10) | 0.42<br>(60) |
| 2007 | 0.0<br>(0)                                       | 0.63<br>(14) | 0.36<br>(7)  | 0.47<br>(8)  | 0.39<br>(7)  | 0.34<br>(5)  | 0.42<br>(41) |

Table 15. Interference reported by cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Cooperators( <i>n</i> ) | Percent with Interference | Percent Hunts Disturbed | Avg. Hunters seen |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1987 | 161                     | 50                        | 10                      |                   |
| 1988 | 230                     | 54                        | 9                       |                   |
| 1989 | 251                     | 47                        | 8                       |                   |
| 1990 | 319                     | 60                        | 11                      | 5.5               |
| 1991 | 408                     | 60                        | 8.1                     | 5.6               |
| 1992 | 430                     | 52                        | 9.0                     | 3.7               |
| 1993 | 361                     | 47                        | 3.8                     | 4.6               |
| 1994 | 341                     | 36                        | 2.8                     | 4.0               |
| 1995 | 401                     | 48                        | 8.2                     | 4.5               |
| 1996 | 481                     | 39                        | 3.3                     | 4.5               |
| 1997 | 486                     | 42                        | 3.6                     | 4.4               |
| 1998 | 455                     | 35                        | 3.2                     | 4.5               |
| 1999 | 500                     | 38                        | 5.2                     | 4.3               |
| 2000 | 441                     | 38                        | 2.9                     | 3.9               |
| 2001 | 433                     | 38                        | 6.2                     | 4.1               |
| 2002 | 380                     | 39                        | 5.9                     | 4.0               |
| 2003 | 372                     | 40                        | 6.3                     | 3.9               |
| 2004 | 357                     | 40                        | 3.1                     | 4.7               |
| 2005 | 354                     | 37                        | —                       | 4.0               |
| 2006 | 412                     | 34                        | —                       | 3.0               |
| 2007 | 280                     | 32                        | —                       | 2.4               |

<sup>a</sup> Average was based on cooperators who had experienced interference.

Table 16. Violations observed during spring gobbler seasons by cooperating wild turkey hunters in Virginia.

| Year | Tres-<br>pass | Pre-<br>Season | Sunday<br>Hunt | Before<br>Hours | After<br>Hours | Over<br>Limit | Baiting | Killing<br>Hens | Other | Total<br>( <i>n</i> ) |
|------|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------|-----------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 1987 | 21            | 17             | 10             | 7               | 7              | 7             | 7       | 7               | 7     |                       |
| 1988 | 43            | 7              | 5              | 14              | 0              | 5             | 5       | 12              | 2     | 42                    |
| 1989 | 53            | 4              | 0              | 17              | 6              | 11            | 2       | 7               | 0     | 53                    |
| 1990 | 54            | 6              | 4              | 6               | 0              | 7             | 3       | 3               | 13    | 68                    |
| 1991 | 48            | 12             | --             | 10              | --             | 13            | 0       | 7               | 11    | 87                    |
| 1992 | 49            | 15             | --             | 9               | --             | 14            | --      | 4               | 9     | 148                   |
| 1993 | 70            | 12             | --             | 12              | --             | 21            | --      | 6               | 13    | 134                   |
| 1994 | 46            | 14             | --             | 4               | --             | 14            | --      | 3               | 10    | 91                    |
| 1995 | 79            | 30             | --             | 23              | --             | 30            | --      | 7               | 23    | 192                   |
| 1996 | 61            | 23             | --             | 18              | --             | 26            | --      | 8               | 19    | 155                   |
| 1997 | 82            | 13             | --             | 11              | --             | 25            | --      | 2               | 22    | 155                   |
| 1998 | 74            | 27             | --             | 19              | --             | 25            | --      | 4               | 23    | 172                   |
| 1999 | 64            | 19             | --             | 9               | --             | 21            | --      | 2               | 27    | 142                   |
| 2000 | 61            | 18             | --             | 11              | --             | 19            | --      | 3               | 16    | 128                   |
| 2001 | 61            | 16             | --             | 7               | --             | 14            | --      | 0               | 12    | 110                   |
| 2002 | 61            | 4              | --             | 11              | --             | 20            | --      | 1               | 8     | 104                   |
| 2003 | 61            | 6              | --             | 4               | --             | 7             | --      | 2               | 13    | 93                    |
| 2004 | 36            | 4              | --             | 6               | --             | 7             | --      | 1               | 7     | 61                    |
| 2005 | 40            | 4              | --             | 3               | --             | 7             | --      | 1               | 11    | 66                    |
| 2006 | 53            | 8              | --             | 10              | --             | 14            | --      | 1               | 15    | 110                   |
| 2007 | 31            | 6              |                | 3               |                | 4             |         | 1               | 10    | 55                    |

Appendix A. Cooperator comments and remarks with cooperator ID number in parentheses. Comments without name and address were not included.

#### WEATHER

**Bad or not very good:** 1906, 0455, 1002, 0332, 0244, 5557, 4796, 8275, 7945, 7604, 0198

**Good:** 7283, 0422, 6538

**Cool:** 6031, 7868

**Hard to pattern birds due to early warm up and cold front weather changes:** 8680

#### GOBBLING

**Poor:** 9401, 8511, 5321, 3971, 6031, 3018, 9713, 4914, 2926, 5186, 1451, 6174, 0256, 3054, 8279, 5557, 8732, 8084, 7945, 7868, 7604, 3458, 7180, 6586, 9138, 9851

**None:** 2217, 0455, 4520, 0573, 7513, 0198

**Good gobbling:** 8854, 2180, 7283, 3164, 6239, 5827, 6538, 1549

**Did not respond or hard to call in:** 9336, 1451, 5304, 6164, 7937, 3331, 0849

**Gobbled on roost then not on ground:** 9322, 5304, 2198, 6164, 9138

**Gobbled before season or early in season:** 4743, 3708, 3278

**During afternoons were unresponsive:** 2338

**Did not gobble end of season:** 1627, 5355, 4559

#### POPULATION

**Lots of jakes:** 7946, 6239

**Few or no jakes:** 5289, 0422, 6838, 7604, 2308

**Large number of hens:** 8511, 5917, 6243, 1451, 4520, 6586, 5036

**Very few or not many hens:** 4952, 6838, 8066, 3303, 7604, 8189, 8300, 4340

**Population decreased:** 9687, 34736285, 7921, 6031, 2814, 6918, 2339, 6174, 2803, 4495, 3264, 4520, 2452, 2273, 7513, 4455, 7868, 6631, 2308, 1852, 6951, 8189, 4340

**Population good to great:** 0332, 5827

**Gobblers were with hens:** 9777, 5304, 4796, 5196

**Fewer 2 year old birds:** 8511, 5321

**SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Need column for Jakes:** 6031

**Should have space for each day of season:** 0244

**Include kill rate by number of hunters, region and county in report:** 9161

**Have form on-line with pass code access:** 4952

**Partner missed and partner killed should be included in daily record section:** 9687, 4892

**Add column for how much time it took to call bird in:** 9687

**Add column for predators called in:** 8766

**For those that don't live in grouse country use column for quail:** 9713

**Survey needs to be easier to find on website:** 9687

**Need spur length chart back:** 9161

**Would like results of resident and non-resident hunters broken down:** 5036

**LIKED SEASON OR NOT**

**Enjoyed the season:** 3473, 8854, 6031, 9161, 1662, 5827, 6838, 1549, 0776, 6406, 4833, 5557, 9072, 9880, 3223, 7868, 3458, 5337, 8299

**Terrible to bad:** 5339, 2803, 4520, 0573, 0849, 8085, 5239

**Difficult to fair:** 2960, 6164, 9138

**Never a bad day when you get to be in the woods:** 8189

**THANK YOU**

**Thanks Gary Norman for good work:** 5186, 8854, 8718, 5289, 6031, 9336, 9083, 8646, 5593, 4833, 8084, 4892, 6631, 5337, 6532, 4340

**Thanks for survey:** 3353, 8766, 8920, 8646, 0776, 6532

**Thanks Gary Norman, VDGIF & NWTF:** 8239

**Thanks Gary Norman and VDGIF: 6927, 2765, 6838, 4499, 5557, 0849, 8732, 7945, 3458, 5036**

**Thanks VDGIF: 3021, 7180, 9138**

**Thanks to VDGIF and NWTF for all they do to promote, educate and improve turkey populations: 5599**

**Forest Service employees do a great job in GWNF: 5036**

**POACHERS AND HUNTER PRESSURE**

**Hunters shooting from road is a problem: 8920, 9472**

**Heard several shots after daylight on Sundays: 1002**

**Too many turkeys shot in fields with rifles: 0622**

**It should be against the law for someone to sneak in between you & bird you are working then shoot it and run: 6302**

**Had another hunter short stand me on bird I worked for three hours - unethical: 0256**

**Hunter shot 30 + times with 22 mag while calling in gobbler: 9628**

**Friend had decoy shot by "experienced" hunter, almost shot friend: 9327**

**After bragging about tagging out I saw the guy hunting: 0824**

**Too many trespassers: 9024, 4340, 5337**

**ATV's are a problem: 4465**

**Need more wardens per county: 9687**

**Call in tag system allows hunter to get by with over limit: 6951**

**DOGS**

**Free roaming dogs are a problem: 6031, 9713, 6289, 5304, 3734, 1302, 0611**

**Deer dogs are a problem: 1002, 3771**

**Need law to allow shooting of free roaming dogs if they are on your property March - June: 9395**

**Dogs ruined several hunts, need to do something: 1906, 9395, 8128**

**Ban running fox with dogs April - June: 4555**

**Put dogs up during nesting and hatching season:** 8920

**LENGTH OF DAY HUNTING AND SUNDAY**

**Yes to Sunday hunting:** 9159, 8920, 9687, 5339, 2765, 3734, 0349, 0472, 3316, 6532

**No to Sunday hunting:** 6031, 4555, 6927, 6975, 2339, 2578, 4952, 8760, 6710, 9602, 2568, 7445, 3758, 6951

**Likes all day hunting:** 9237, 5339, 3734, 0422, 9835, 6532

**No to all day hunting:** 8718, 5289, 4555, 2578, 5468, 2568, 0849, 7445, 9327, 3758, 6951

**All day first 2 weeks:** 3353

**Add 1 week to all day:** 8920

**Have all day opening day:** 4952

**Make all day last 3 weeks:** 2338

**Start all day 1 week earlier:** 2068

**SEASON DATES**

**Open 1 week earlier:** 8920, 1166, 4892

**Start first Saturday in April:** 2578, 9611

**Opened 1 week too late:** 6918

**Hope starting 1 week later helped with undisturbed breeding hopefully making good hatch:** 2308

**Season dates OK:** 6031, 4555, 8239, 2193, 5557, 7945

**Season should start first Saturday in April end first Saturday in May:** 8718

**Season 1 week too long:** 3758

**Move ahead 2 weeks and go out 2 weeks early around May first:** 7184

**FALL SEASON**

**Shorten:** 2339, 6631

**Reduce hens in fall to one:** 3264

**Gobblers only fall or no fall season:** 4340



**Need longer Fall season:** 1645

**Keep closed during deer season:** 7946, 4892

#### LIMITS AND LICENSE

**Limit is good:** 6031, 4555, 8239, 2193, 5557, 7945

**Need only 1 tag in fall:** 6918, 6631

**Need a hen tag in fall to reduce population:** 6243

**Cut limit back to 2:** 7342

**Limit should be 2 in spring and 1 in fall:** 4952

**Reduce to 2 birds in spring:** 6918, 6975, 2339, 2578, 8732, 5036

**Remove 3 bird limit:** 9472, 2960

**Reduce to 1 bearded bird:** 8085

**Need to be able to take more than 1 bird per day:** 2765

**One bird in fall and 1 in spring:** 2308

**Should be \$15 fee to hunt spring turkeys:** 8718

#### WEAPONS

**Do not allow rifles in spring:** 5321, 8718, 5289, 6031, 9981, 8920, 1831, 2926, 0332, 4952, 1166, 9573, 8239, 2960, 4520, 9611, 4333, 2568, 8732, 3458, 2422, 3708, 8014, 1645

**No rifles allowed for hunting turkeys:** 4555, 6975, 0622, 3734, 1171, 2193, 5713, 9160, 9851, 0849, 6951

**Rifles should be allowed:** 9237, 2339, 4756, 4768, 5196, 2050, 3801

**Do not allow shot larger than size 4:** 3458

**Likes option of combination gun:** 6289, 1430, 7725, 2050

**Feels guilty for shooting first gobbler with a rifle:** 8300

#### EXPERIENCES

**Heard hen gobble:** 9735

**Red fox stalked decoys: 7745**

**Hen attacked and knocked decoy off stake: 8718**

**Coyote came in to crow call: 5289**

**Lots of coyotes: 1733, 6289, 5850, 1852, 8646**

**Coyote came in to call: 1171, 7191, 8299, 7342**

**Hen came off roost and tore into decoy for 6 hours: 9777**

**Owl hit decoy 3 times and knocked it down: 3748**

**Birds were spooked: 5608**

**Gobblers alarmed by decoy: 3771**

**Bald eagle chased 4 longbeards I was working: 0256**

**Saw bald eagle: 6586, 1831**

**Called in bobcat: 7191**

**Saw lots of baby fox: 0198**

**Saw bearded hen: 6927, 4559**

**Doe came in to call and licked decoy: 3021**

**Hen swooped down on decoy: 2068**

**Partner killed bird with radio transmitter and gobbling device: 8680**

**Turkey had 2 broken toes on left foot and spurs turned down, another one had bad leg and nubs for spurs: 3241**

**Saw gobbler mate hen at 6:30 p.m. April 26: 7604**

#### **OPINIONS**

**Need to do more to improve habitat in public areas: 5599**

**Need to protect hens: 4340**

**I will not shoot at birds with beards less than 10 inches: 3983**

**Clear cutting old growth forest is devastating to eco system: 0824**

**Release or transplant more turkeys: 6975**

**I don't have to kill birds to have a great season: 8299**

**Losing habitat: 3473, 0824, 2803**

**Need to create and preserve habitat: 2339**

**Highly recommend helping others: 6070**

**Harvesting over bag limit is bad for turkey population: 6289**

**Close fall season in Dickenson and keep closed in Buchanan County: 9687**

**Should have early bow season for gobblers: 2926**

**Had more success hunting public land in NC than VA, not worth time off and gas to drive to WMA's here: 5339**

**Should not kill jakes in spring: 2578**

**Waste of money this year: 2803**

**Hard to find check station with available cards: 0824**

**Need to reduce limit in Highland county: 8760**

**Need help in Rockingham County with populations: 2198**

**Start program for turkey hunters like fishing program, master, expert etc: 6164**

**Hunt gobblers on even years in spring and hens in fall on odd years: 3264**

**Smart move reducing fall season: 8713, 9160**

**Keep fall season and hunting with turkey dogs: 4499**

**Tenants should buy license: 0472, 3316**

**Corn prices put more birds back on NF and other lands: 8732**

**Put food plots on AEP new power line: 3015**

**Incorporate in or patch for coop hunter helping to record field data during season: 7513**

**Bobcat population is up: 1852**

**No to decoys: 6951**



**YOUTH DAY**

**Make youth day all day: 4952**

**Youth day good idea: 7946**

**Need more youth days: 9327, 7945**

**Need longer youth days: 9687**

**Open on 2 Saturday's prior to regular opening: 2147**

**Need backup in case of bad weather: 1852**

**NESTING**

**May 7 saw broken turkey eggs: 1339**

**Flushed hen off nest with 17 eggs May 7: 7946**

**Saw nest o 11 eggs: 6373**

**May 18 saw hen with 18-20 approximately 4 day old poults: 9687**

**May 10 flushed hen with nest of 14 eggs: 2578**

**Called in hen last day with 8 poults 3 to 5 days old: 3879**

**Saw hen with poults opening day: 9859**